

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the subject PCT National Phase application be preliminarily amended as provided in the foregoing amendment.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 and 13-18 have been amended by the present amendment to eliminate reference numerals, and to remove multiple dependencies. The amendment is fully supported by the application as originally filed.

The abstract has been amended to eliminate reference numerals. No new matter is added.

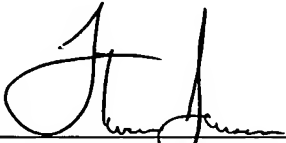
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Preliminary Amendment. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

Date: December 7, 2004

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